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WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM BENTLEY

FOR THE YEAR 1948

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of WEDNESFIELD.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. NEWEY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1948.

The Birth Rate for the year shows a slight increase on last year being 20.20 against 19.50 per thousand of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 17.9.

The Death Rate was 8.18 against 7.92 per thousand of the population last year. The rate for England and Wales was 10.8.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 51.72 compared with 81.25 in in 1947. The actual number of deaths under one year was 18 as against 26 last year.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 34.

Combined with my report is that of your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I would like to express thanks to all those who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Newey and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM BENTLEY,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:—

Medical Officer of Health W. BENTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.

Sanitary Inspector
Meat & Foods Inspector } P. H. G. GRIMMETT, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., R.P.

Health Visitor ... Mrs. REILLY.

Area	2,515 acres
Population (estimated) ...	16,730
Inhabited Houses	4,978
Rateable Value	£66,744
General Rate	16/-
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£247

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Males		Females		Total		Rate
L	I	L	I	L	I	per 1000
184	9	147	8	331	17	20.20

STILLBIRTHS

2	-	1	-	3	-

DEATHS

Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000
76	61	137	8.18

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year.

Males		Females		Total		Rate
L	I	L	I	L	I	per 1000
14	-	4	-	18	-	51.72

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

From Sepsis - NONE

From other causes - NONE

INFANT MORTALITY during Year 1948.

Causes of Death	Total under one year	Under 1 day	1 to 7 days	7 to 14 days	14 to 28 days	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months
Prematurity	2	2							
Pneumonia	4					1	2		1
Enteritis	3				1	1		1	
Haemorrhagic Disease of Infancy	4	2	1				1		
Convulsions	1					1			
Accidental Asphyxia	2	2							
Congenital Heart Disease	1				1				
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1		1						
TOTALS	18	6	2		2	3	3	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD U.D.

Causes of Death	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All Causes.	68	70	79	63	79	61	79	51	76	61
	138		142		140		130		137	
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	1	...	..	1		...	1
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	...	...	1						...	..
Influenza	1								...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...										
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1				...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis ...										
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	4	5	4	6	1	6	3	6	2
Other Forms	1	...	1	1	2	..	2		...	...
Cancer Malignant Disease ...	11	6	8	7	11	9	12	9	8	14
Aneurysm										
Diabetes	...	..	1	1	...	1			...	1
G.P.I. Tabes &c.										
Cerebral Hæmorrhage... ...	3	13	2	3	3	2	4	5	4	9
Heart Disease	15	14	15	16	15	21	16	9	17	10
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	3	1	...	1	3	...	2	1	3	3
Bronchitis	7	7	8	2	8	4	4	5	4	1
Pneumonia, all forms	...	5	3	3	5	5	7	1	7	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1		4	...
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	...	1	...	1				1	...
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	1	1	3	1	...	1	2		2	1
Appendicitis	...	1	...	1					...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Other Diseases of Liver, &c. ...										
Other digestive diseases ...	1	3	2	2	3	...	2	3	1	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	3	4	2	1	...	2			...	3
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1			...	...
Other Diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Births	5	5	8	3	6	5	9	4	9	1
Road Accidents	1	...	1	...	...	...	1		1	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1	1		...	2
Other Deaths from Violence ..	3	1	5	1	2	1	3	1	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	10	5	11	15	10	7	6	7	8	9
Causes ill defined or unknown ...										
Estimated Population ...	15,340		15,450		16,040		16,410		16,730	
Total Deaths	138		142		140		130		137	
Death Rate	8.99		9.19		8.72		7.92		8.18	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Diphtheria swabs and other specimens are sent to the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Stafford and to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Hospital for examination.

Ambulance Facilities

For the removal of infectious cases an ambulance is provided by the hospital authorities who take the patient.

Nursing in the Home

Wednesfield Nursing Association, an organisation supported by voluntary contributions, provides one nurse who gives professional service to necessitous non-infectious cases. When infectious cases are kept at home the mother of the patient usually acts as nurse, under the direction of the medical attendant. This organisation ceased to exist on July 5th. The County Council now provide the services as one of the benefits to be obtained under the new National Health Service Act.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Under the direction of the Staffordshire County Council a Welfare Centre is held at the Wesleyan Sunday School, Well Lane. Valuable advice and assistance may be obtained free at this Centre. The times of attendance are as follows :—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Weekly.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Fortnightly.

Children attending the Infant Welfare Centre can be referred to an Opthalmic Surgeon, and for orthopædic treatment and dental treatment under the County Council's schemes. Dental treatment is also provided for expectant and nursing mothers.

Maternity and Child Welfare (Cont.)

Dried milks and vitamins are stocked at the Food Office and retailed at reduced cost prices under the National Scheme.

From time to time lectures on mothercraft are given

Hospitals.

On October 1st 1941 the Joint Hospital Board opened Moxley Hospital for the reception of cases of Infectious Disease. This is a great improvement on our previous arrangements when we had to rely on outside Authorities to take our cases.

Smallpox

Provision is made under the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board.

Maternity

By arrangement with the County Council the Royal Hospital Wolverhampton will take difficult cases requiring hospital treatment.

Accommodation at the Rosemary Ednam Maternity House is also available.

Two Registered Midwives reside within the District.

Medical and Surgical

The Royal Hospital, the Women's Hospital, and the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton, are all within easy distance.

Wordsley Hospital is also available for patients who cannot obtain accommodation elsewhere.

Nursery.

This has been used to full capacity during the year. It is a great help to mothers. A high state of efficiency is maintained.

Sanitary Circumstances

Combined with this report is that of your Sanitary Inspector it has been found much more suitable to the setting out of the Reports to combine the two rather than separate them.

Water

The supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is good and adequate and is obtained from Wolverhampton Corporation.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Newey and Gentlemen,

The year 1948 marks but little advancement toward the much which requires attention. General renovations, re-housing and demolition of unsuitable premises, remaining almost "as you were". These premises, still called 'home' being so sited and of such construction as to cause continual concern to all who have the welfare of the future generation at heart.
Some appreciated relief was afforded in the raising of the Building Licence Limit to £100 on July 1st.

General details of activities:

Complaints, enquiries received etc. ... 2251

The following inspections being made:

General Sanitation.

Drainage	..	...	372
Water Supply	...	...	8
Stables & Piggeries	...	...	103
Tents ,Vans, Sheds	...	...	11
Factories	...	...	15
Refuse collection (Dustbins)		.	220
Refuse Disposal	...	...	9
Rodent Control	...	...	84
Smoke Observations	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	8
Shops (other than food)		...	4
Miscellaneous visits (including kitchen waste canvas.)			767
No. of informal notices served			182
Number complied with		...	131
Number of Statutory Notices served			10
Number complied with		...	9

The cleansing of private drains was continued throughout the year; 299 premises receiving attention; resulting in a gross income of £42 8 7d.

Improvements effected to Domestic Dwellings—

External Rendering (pebble dash)	10
Roofs and Guttering ...	45
To Chimneys	9
Plastering	56
W.C.'s and Drainage ...	43
Floors (Wooden) ...	37
Floors (solid)	5
Window woodwork ...	14
Sash cords	7
Doors and Staircases ...	16
Firegrates	13
Hot water systems ...	19
Coal-fired wash boilers ...	3
Dirty Domestic premises cleansed	2
Accumulations removed ...	9
Fencing	1
Pig sties cleansed	2
Improperly-kept goats removed ...	1
Dust bins supplied ...	103

Food Inspection.

Slaughter Houses ...	8
Shops & Stalls etc. ...	4
Bake Houses	7
Cow Sheds	15
Dairies	23
Ice Cream Premises ...	8
Street Vendors	14
Food Preparing Premises ...	9
Fishmongers and Poultry ...	21
Fried Fish Establishments ...	26
Grocers	7
Greengrocers	10

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption—

Bacon	30 lbs
Tinned Bacon	12lbs.
Cheese	57 lbs.
Boxed dates	33 lbs.
Fish, Cod Fillet	89 lbs.
Grapefruit	1 tin.
Pears	1 tins

All of the above foods suitable for the feeding of animals was directed to the processing plant to that end.

Infectious Disease.

Visits covering General Notifications :	109
Premises disinfected all causes	75

Control of Civil Building.

Licences granted	... ...	167
W.B.A. Certificates granted	...	43
Visits in connection therewith	...	191

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

Under the Public Health Act 1936		191
No of inspections made		387
Under the Housing Act 1936		247
No. of inspections made.	...	333
Overcrowded houses	...	22
No. of inspections made	...	26
Verminous Premises	...	36
No. of inspections made	...	45
Premises disinfested (including woodworm)		24

Rodent Control.

In March upon obtaining the services of an Operator, a more definite approach was made to eradicate pockets of resistance in the rodent world.

By resolution, the Council agreed to make a charge for the treatment of business premises and no charge for treatment of private dwellings.

Such treatment undertaken in conformity with methods prescribed by the infestation division of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Estimated kill of Rats and Mice.

Business premises	45 Rats	29 Mice
Private Dwellings	117 Rats	104 Mice
U.D.C. Premises Sewerage Works & Refuse Tip	431 Rats	

During the year the Orchard and Mattox Road Housing sites were completed and tenanted, making a total of 192 permanent houses constructed since the war, in addition to 30 prefabricated bungalows, which number comprise of 10 four-bedroomed houses and 182 three-bedroomed houses.

The inclusion of a number of two-bedroomed houses on the Colman Avenue site is to be commended, whilst yet it is regretted a break in fhe continuity of building has occurred.

Four houses were demolished, two of which were condemned and vacated in 1939, namely:

54 and 56, New Street,

the two premises,

17 and 19 Church Street,

being so treated for the additional cause of danger, the respective tenants being re-housed.

Two previously condemned houses were permitted to be renovated this being undertaken by the young couples desiring to live therein, a nominal period of five years being allowed as extended life to the property. These premises being:

8 & 10, Lichfield Road.

Demolition Notices were served on five further properties namely:

"Lake View", Watery Lane, (an old railway carriage)

1 to 4, Devil's Elbow, Linthouse Lane.

action being witheld until premises are vacated.

Household Kitchen Waste & Salvage Collection.

Co-incident with the coming into force of the new National Health Act on July 5th., an experimental collection of Kitchen Waste and Salvage was inaugurated, each household receiving a special container in which to keep scraps etc.

Out of a total of 154 houses on the experimental area 84 agreed to participate in the scheme giving these results for the first week.

Containers	Kitchen Waste	Salvage
84	3.3cwts.	140lbs

building up to the following figures by December,

Containers	Kitchen Waste	Salvage
147	6.5 cwts	151lbs

when the collecting area was extended.

These latter figures reveal a collection of 2.5 tons per 1000 population per month against the Board of Trade Standard of 1 ton per thousand per month.

In conclusion my thanks to all who have contributed to the smooth working of the Department,

I am Mr Chairman, Mrs. Newey and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. H. G GRIMMETT.

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES
Factories Act 1937.

1—INSPECTIONS

for purposes of provisions as to health.
Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosceuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	14	–	
Factories without mechanical power ...	1		
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).			
Total ...	15	–	

2—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of defects. Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Refered to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted, (5)
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ...	2	2		
Overcrowding (S. 2)	–	–		
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	–	–		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	–	–		
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) insufficient	...	...		
unsuitable or defective	1	1		
not separate for sexes				
Total ...	3	3		

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

Twelve licenses to slaughter and stun animals were granted during the year.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS ADULTERATION, Etc.

Samples of Foods and Drugs are taken by the County Council for examination, they being the responsible Authority.

MILK SUPPLY

Building development has taken its toll of the grazing land in the district, with the result that the number of Dairy Farms is now reduced to eight, these are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

DESIGNATED MILK

Eleven Supplementary Licenses and two Dealers Licences to sell Designated Milk within the District during the year, were issued all supplies being obtained from other districts. The grades for which licenses were granted were as follows :—

PASTEURISED	...	...	5
TUBERCULIN TESTED		...	6

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notified during 1948.

Diseases	Number of Cases Notified. Age Periods—Years.												Total Cases admitted to Hospital
	All ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 upwards	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	2
Scarlet Fever ...	51	..	10	38	...	...	3	...	...	..	...	...	45
Ophthalmia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	18	...	2	...	...	3	4	5	3	...	1	...	7
Other Forms ...	3	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	21	...	6	3	2	1	...	1	3	4	...	1	2
Whooping Cough	54	2	27	25	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles ...	131	3	57	71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	287	5	103	137	2	7	7	9	7	5	2	3	62

SMALLPOX. No case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER. 51 cases were notified compared with 53 in 1947. No death occurred

DIPHTHERIA Only 3 cases were notified throughout the year as against 13 in 1947. No death occurred.

This is very satisfactory and no doubt due to the large percentage of children immunised.

ENTERIC FEVER. No case occurred.

MEASLES. 131 cases were notified No death occurred.

WHOOPING COUGH 54 cases were notified. One death occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS. At the end of the year there remained on the register 128 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 69 males and 59 females, and 68 persons, 30 males and 38 females, suffering from other forms of Tuberculosis, a total on the register of 196. From the following table it will be seen that 8 deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, No deaths occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis. 18 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and 3 other forms. 7 of the pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria.

TUBERCULOSIS, New Cases and Mortality during 1948

Age Periods— Years.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
5 to 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 to 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 to 20	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	...
20 to 25	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 to 35	2	3	...	1	...	1	...	...
35 to 45	2	1	...	...	3	1	...	...
45 to 55	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 to 65	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	7	11	1	2	6	2	...	...

The Sanatoria for the district are :—

For Males Prestwood Sanatorium and Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital

For Females, Groundslow and Yarnfield

For Children, The Limes Sanatorium, Himley

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA no case occurred.

INFLUENZA & PNEUMONIA. During the year 21 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 67 in 1947 and 34 in 1946. There were 9 deaths due to this cause against 8 in 1947. No death occurred from Influenza.

CANCER. 22 deaths occurred from this disease during the year, 8 males and 14 females.

Ages and Parts Affected.

PARTS AFFECTED	20 — 30		30 — 40		40 — 50		50 — 60		60 — 70		70 —		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
BREAST	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	4
LIVER	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	–
RECTUM	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	1	1	3
COLON	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
LUNG	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	4
STOMACH	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	6
PANCREAS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	–
BLADDER	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	–
OVARY	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
UTERUS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	1	2
	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	6	3	–	2	5	22

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED												DEATHS											
	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Measles
1938	27	5	46	5	-	7	3	-	19	7	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	1	-
1939	10	4	35	6	-	12	3	-	14	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-
1940	8	2	16	2	-	23	1	1	11	3	-	12	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	9	2	-	-
1941	14	3	59	4	-	43	4	-	17	4	-	129	10	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	10	3	-	-
1942	23	3	111	7	-	37	3	-	17	1	-	25	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	1	-	-
1943	59	6	77	6	-	23	4	-	10	5	-	245	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	1
1944	6	3	33	2	-	2	1	-	18	10	-	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-
1945	10	-	15	1	-	22	-	-	16	7	-	106	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	2	-	1
1946	34	3	56	2	-	20	3	-	18	1	-	21	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-
1947	67	2	53	4	-	13	-	-	16	4	-	204	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	-	1
1948	21	-	51	6	-	3	-	-	18	3	-	131	9	-	-	-	-		-	-	8	-	-	-